

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 12 1999

649-619P

GROUP 1700 IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yasuyuki TANAKA et al.

Serial No.: 08/941,132

Group: 1713

Filed: September 30, 1997

Examiner: F. Zitomer

For: MODIFIED NATURAL RUBBER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 12, 1999

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action dated August 11, 1998, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub 51
Claim 9. A process for [improving the graft ratio and the graft efficiency] the production of a graft-copolymerized natural rubber which comprises deproteinizing natural rubber and then graft-copolymerizing the natural rubber.

Claim 10. A process for [improving the epoxidation ratio] the production of an epoxidized natural rubber which comprises